Honorable Kaitlyn Allen
District Judge
Juvenile Division

Hannah Whipp
Director

OKLAHOMA COUNTY JUVENILE BUREAU
"Their Success is Our Success"

10/27/2026

Oklahoma's Workforce Board
5005 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau-Court Services Department, I am writing to express our strong support for maintaining Oklahoma's current structure of local workforce development boards, including the Oklahoma's Workforce Board (OWB)/Central Oklahoma Workforce Innovation Board (COWIB), as outlined under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

We have directly experienced the value of working with our local workforce board as a community-based partner. These boards play a critical role in aligning workforce strategies with the unique needs of regional economies, ensuring that services are responsive, relevant, and effective for both job seekers and employers.

The local workforce boards serve as essential conveners of community-based partnerships. Through their leadership, organizations like ours can collaborate with businesses, education providers, and support service agencies to address workforce challenges in a coordinated and meaningful way. This local connection cannot be replicated through a centralized, one-size-fits-all system.

We are particularly concerned that eliminating the four local workforce development boards would:

- Reduce the ability to respond to region-specific workforce and economic needs
- Weaken established partnerships that serve job seekers, including those facing barriers to employment
- Limit direct employer engagement that ensures training and services align with real hiring demands
- Decrease local accountability and transparency in workforce system performance

Oklahoma's workforce system is strongest when it balances statewide coordination with local expertise. The current structure allows for innovation, responsiveness, and collaboration at the community level—key elements that drive successful outcomes under WIOA.

We respectfully urge the state to preserve the local workforce development board structure and continue building upon the strong partnerships and proven strategies already in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for your continued commitment to strengthening Oklahoma's workforce.

Sincerely,

Hajr Brown, Deputy Director